

1.15 Communities (CLD) Service and Community Councils

The Communities Community Learning & Development (CLD) Service in Moray Council is made up of three distinct teams, detailed below.

- Community Engagement Team (CSU)
- Adult and Family Learning Team
- Youth Work team.

Community learning and development covers a range of work including youth work, adult learning and community development. “CLD should empower people, individually and collectively, to make positive changes in their lives and their communities through learning” (Scottish Government). More information can be found here: http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_39860.html

The Community Support Unit is part of the Communities (CLD) Service within the Moray Council.

One of the key priorities of the Communities (CLD) teams is to work to enhance the voice of communities and individual learners – similar sentiments which influence why people tend to get involved in their local community council and other groups and organisations.

The full CLD Plan can be found here
<http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file156867.pdf>

Community Learning and Development (CLD) develops “critical thinking, personal and social skills, widening access to lifelong educational attainment and employment prospects; improving people’s health and well-being; and encouraging active citizenship and participatory democracy” (Learning: For All. For Life. - July 2024)

Active Citizens and Community Voice includes Community Councils.

The Community Support Unit is committed to:

Development work that strengthens the ability of community organisation and groups to:

- Become stronger to enable people to develop new and existing skills to promote their aims and objectives for the benefit of their core group stakeholders.

- Engage with and respond to Moray Council Planning Partnership consultations and discussions that affect them and their community.
- Fully engage and participate in community based activity that strengthens residents to become more involved in their community.
- Strengthen partnership working with other community groups and organisations.
- Take a lead role in involving wider participation in community life.

This can include training of members to take on leadership roles, manage their own resources, produce good governance and organisational structures as well as support to individual members to explore their own person development needs to ensure their skills are compatible with the needs of the organisation.

Examples of where the service supports and links with Community Councils

- **Community Council Support** – The Community Council Liaison officer role sits within the Community Support Unit and is a part-time post dedicated to supporting individual Community Councils and the Moray wide Joint Community Councils grouping.

The team is keen to support the development of Community Resilience Plans across Moray with Community Councils being the central contact. Community Councils played a key role in the local response to the COVID-19 pandemic, helping with the co-ordination and networking of local volunteers and groups.

- **The Community Support Unit team**- is leading on Locality Plans as a Community Planning objective, working in partnership with other community planning partners including Community Councils and Area Forums. This localised neighbourhood approach is designed to engage people in specific communities and is a key strand in the Moray Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). In addition CSU staff are also supporting community anchor organisations to produce their own Community Action Plans.